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Front Page

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Cloak and Dagger Stuff

By nature the American people have had little interest in the black art of intelligence and counter intelligence. We have left the cloak and dagger stuff to our suave friends in Downing Street and Harrow, who have had centuries to perfect it and who, judging by the recent debacle in the Caribbean, haven't been very successful in imparting it to us.

Several men in Congress have long felt the need for tighter Congressional control over the mysterious (and burgeoning) Central Intelligence Agency, which occuples a Pentagon-sized intrigue factory over in Virginia. Montana's Senator Mansfield is one of these.

In the Cuban failure, Kennedy gave his consent to the plan after careful study and of course as President and commander-in-chief much accept full responsibility.

However, he only knows as much about Cuba as he has time to read and listen to expert testimony, and for him that time is very limited. Thus, one of the most sensitive responsibilities of the CIA, and its top policy makers, is to see that ALL the facts are laid before the President and that they are not laid out in colored or watered-down style.

If it does nothing but gauge correctly the political temper of any people or region in the world, at any moment, the CIA is well worth its cost to the nation. The nuclear age permits few intelligence flops. The task of being the eyes and ears of the free world calls for top talent.

Recent events have cast grave doubts over Allen Dulles, and he may shortly find himself missing from the New Frontier.